

**571—28.14(321G) Items eligible for funding specific to the snowmobile program.****28.14(1) Grooming equipment.**

*a.* The project sponsor shall have a minimum of 100 miles of groomed snowmobile trail before the department awards funding for a groomer purchase or lease.

*b.* The state may acquire committee-approved groomers and drags through the use of the standard state purchasing procedure. If the purchase and lease of groomers and drags are approved by the grant review and selection committee and the department, sponsors may acquire or lease snow grooming equipment with snowmobile program funds.

*c.* After approval by the department and upon trade-in to the department of a used groomer by a sponsor for replacement purposes, the trade-in value shall be applied to the new groomer purchase. The sponsor is responsible for obtaining liability insurance, licensing the machine as needed and providing personnel for daily operation and maintenance.

*d.* Upon sale or trade-in of a used groomer with no replacement, the snowmobile fund shall refund to the sponsor the percentage of the trade-in value which matches the percent originally invested in the groomer. Groomers shall not be traded between sponsors without written prior approval from the department.

**28.14(2)** Groomer maintenance, repair and operation wages may be reimbursed at a rate approved by the review and selection committee and the department. If repair work is done by professional shops, payment shall be in the amount billed for the repair. Costs for towing disabled grooming equipment shall be reimbursed as billed by the company doing the work.

**28.14(3)** Trail signs. Signs shall be provided to the sponsor by the department. Only those signs approved by the department for use on funded areas or trails shall be used by the sponsor. Signs appropriate to the snowmobile program shall be ordered on forms provided by the department. The sign order deadline shall be the same as the application date specified in subrule 28.4(2).

**28.14(4)** Actual material cost of gates, fence openings, bridges, culverts and permanent bridges. Permanent bridges are eligible only if placed on public land or on private property under a lease or easement for ten or more years.

**28.14(5)** Program and facility liability insurance shall be in place for project sponsors receiving grant funds. If insurance is purchased by the sponsor, proof of liability insurance shall be provided to the department. The state may purchase a statewide insurance policy covering all project sponsors receiving funds from the snowmobile grant program in which case a copy of the policy shall be made available to covered sponsors upon request. This insurance coverage may include liability insurance for the landowner(s) or other insurable interests. Snowmobile registration funds shall not be used to purchase insurance for special events. The total payment from the snowmobile fund shall be 100 percent of the approved actual cost. All insurance paid under this subrule must be furnished by companies licensed to do business in Iowa.

**28.14(6)** Direct payment to vendors. The department may establish operational procedures to facilitate direct payment to vendors for:

*a.* Major expenditures or specialty items including but not limited to land acquisitions, development expenses, program liability insurance fees and trail signs.

*b.* Unexpected repairs including materials or other expenses costing more than \$500 that may be necessary to operate the snowmobile trails in a safe manner.

**28.14(7)** Pursuant to an agreement between the department and the snowmobile association, miscellaneous personal expenses for association officers when incurred in conjunction with program activities may be reimbursed.